



(Photo by Sgt. Cheryl Cox, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Pfc. Chad Mitchem, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, pulls security while at the halt during a dismounted patrol along a road in Tarmiyah, Iraq. The unit was conducting the patrol in an attempt to locate wires or IEDs for wires that the insurgents had placed along the road.

Iraqi army, Soldiers search ancient temple, catacombs

**By Pfc. M. Benjamin Gable
7th MPAD**

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Soldiers patrolled a historical site Dec. 7 to search for weapon caches and ensure the area's safety for local Iraqis in Agargouf, Iraq.

Members of 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, were called to lead the way scouring the

roads that lead to the Ziggurat of Agargouf, the surrounding fields and the catacombs, which encircle the historical ziggurat.

The ruins of the ziggurat rise nearly 200 feet today, having survived wind, rain and 3,500 years. The ziggurat, a temple of sorts, was built in the 15 century B.C. by the Babylonian King Kurigalzu.

The search by Cavalry troopers was for possible weapon caches in what could

be a staging area for terrorists, while maintaining proper respect for the site.

This area has been patrolled by Company B, 2-5 Cavalry since their arrival in Baghdad. Soldiers from other companies and the cavalry scout platoon from 2-5 Cav. were called in to provide assistance

Soldiers clear roads leading to Tarmiyah

**By Sgt. Cheryl Cox
1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs**

AL TARMİYAH, Iraq - Knowing how to identify an improvised explosive device (IED) is the first step in keeping your Soldiers safe during patrols down roads in areas known for these terrorist attacks.

The Soldiers from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, spend more than half of each week living on a fire base in Tarmiyah, Iraq, located along the roads that are known as "hot spots" for IEDs.

To counteract this threat the Soldiers conduct dismounted patrols through the elephant grass that lines the sides of the roads several times each week, hoping to find wires or trigger devices for IEDs that have not yet gone off under or alongside a vehicle.

The importance of this mission was reinforced Dec. 7 while on their way to the dismount location for their patrol.

"We had traveled about 200 meters when the last vehicle in our convoy was hit by an IED," said Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Stout, the platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon. "There were no injuries to the Soldiers in the vehicle and little damage, but it really scared us for a minute because we know what could happen."

Once the Soldiers received the IED attack, they pushed forward past the point that they were going to start their patrol before dismounting.

"When the blast first happened, I was really scared," said Pfc. Chad Mitchem, a Demon Company Soldier who was in the vehicle hit by the IED. "I was just sitting there thinking about

See **Tarmiyah** Page 3

See **Ziggurat** Page 3

Sexual Assault: Prevention protects you, your buddy

By Pfc. Shea Butler
7th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - If you work out by yourself, walk to your hooch at night without a battle buddy or are unaware of your surroundings you are a statistic waiting to happen. You

are vulnerable to a predator with no face, rank or gender.

Sexual assault can happen to anyone, but there are ways to reduce the risk of you or your battle buddy becoming a victim. If you know of someone who has already been assaulted or you have, personally, there

are trained individuals who can help.

An important prevention technique is using a battle buddy during all hours of the day.

"Using the battle buddy system is a deterrent to attackers. It makes their job too hard if you are around other people," said Sgt. 1st Class Celetia Carroll, sexual assault response coordinator for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division.

If you walk with a buddy, then there is someone there to protect you if anything were to happen, Carroll added.

Though it might seem obvious, another prevention method is awareness. Being aware of people and your surroundings is important.

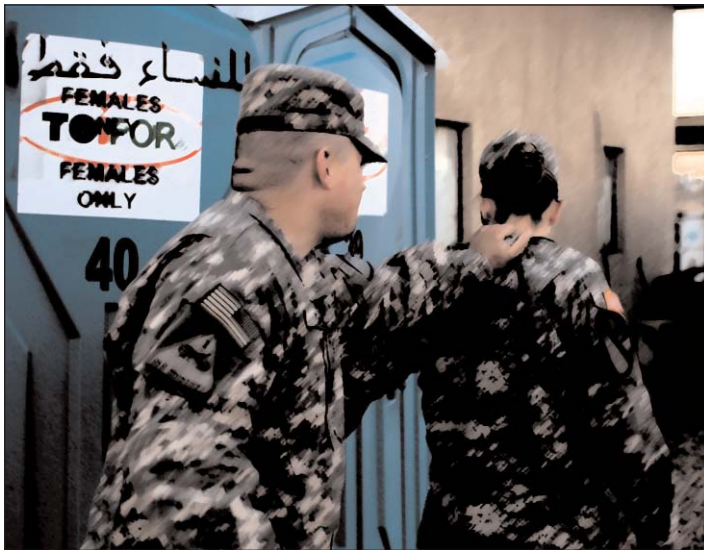
Soldiers should memorize their surroundings and be able to detect if something or someone is out of place," Carroll said.

Sexual Assault Response Coordinators are people trained to help those who have been victimized by sexual assault. SARCs are available where Army personnel are located, on stateside and overseas installations and in deployed areas. These individuals are prepared and willing to help those who have been assaulted.

Leaders should know who their SARCs are and how to reach them. They should pass the information on to their troops, Carroll said.

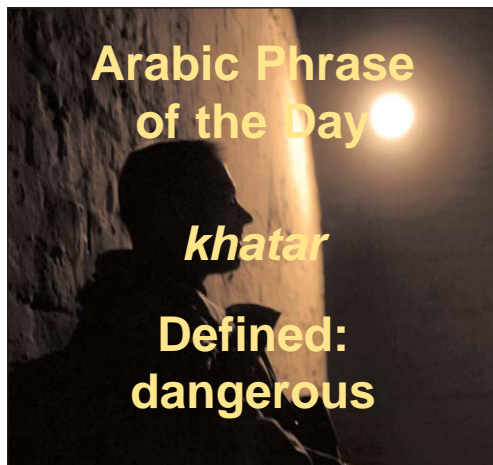
If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual assault you should report it to a SARC.

"There is a 24-hour sexual assault hotline (Iraqna number 07901932392) that Soldiers can call for advice on methods of reporting, or just to talk about the incident," said Master Sgt. Delionel Meadows, the division's Equal Opportunity non-commissioned officer in charge.



(Photo illustration by Pfc. Shea Butler, 7th MPAD)

Traveling alone could make you an easier victim of sexual assault. Use the buddy system as a deterrent.



Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 66
Low: 37



Tomorrow

High: 64
Low: 37



Friday

High: 54
Low: 42

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl
Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
NCOIC, Print Production: Staff Sgt. Mary Rose
Editor: Sgt. Michael Garrett
Staff Writers: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Pfc. Jeffrey Ledesma, Pfc. Ben Gable, Pfc. Shea Butler, Pfc. William Hatton
Contributing Writers: Sgt. Cheryl Cox, Cpl. Jessica Kent

Contact the *Daily Charge* at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.

The *Daily Charge* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Daily Charge* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of the *Daily Charge* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

The search for IEDs

Tarmiyah

From Page 1

how much I didn't want to walk all the way back searching for wiring in the grass when ... boom!"

"Once I knew I was OK, I starting asking the other people in the vehicle. Once we got to the halt and prepared to dismount, I really didn't want to. I didn't want to take the chance of getting hit again. We were lucky no one got hurt with the first IED, I didn't really didn't want to chance it," he added.

Once the Soldiers dismounted, they split into two teams and began a slow, methodical walk along through the elephant grass and along the road on either side.

"It is very difficult to identify and dis-

tinguish the IEDs from the vehicle while moving," said Stout.

"That is why it is so important that we get out with our boots on the ground to find this stuff. Our guys are too important to us to not do this," he added.

Shortly after beginning their patrol, an Explosive Ordnance Detachment (EOD) team arrived to assess the blast from IED.

Stout gave them the location of the blast and they moved forward to where the IED had gone off.

Within minutes they were back to tell Stout that the area was clear and that it had been a 120mm mortar that had gone off just to the front right of the vehicle.

During the patrol, the Soldiers found several sets of wires that were being set up for future IEDs, one of which already had the trigger switch in place.

All it needed was the explosives.



(Photo by Sgt. Cheryl Cox, 1-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Sgt. Alex Folden (left) and Pfc. Derek Garland, of Co. D, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, take a knee and pull security during a dismounted patrol through elephant grass along a road in Tarmiyah, Iraq.

Troops search 3500-year-old ruins for caches

Ziggurat

From Page 1

in searching the expansive site.

The search was thorough. Soldiers

also searched riverbeds and in the fields with metal detectors. Even though there was no real history of weapons caches in the area there was probable cause for the search.



(Photo by Pfc. M. Benjamin Gable, 7th MPAD)

Cavalry scouts from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, prepare to search the catacombs near the Ziggurat at Agargouf, Iraq, Dec. 7.

"This would be a good place to hide weapon caches because it is so vacant and widespread," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Roper, a scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-5 Cavalry.

The surrounding buildings of the ziggurat were searched from top to bottom as well.

They found some Iraqi Army and Iraqi police uniforms. In the past, these uniforms have been used illegally to set up false roadblocks.

"We're here to help support the Iraqis and make it a safe area for anyone to visit," said Capt. Hector Moyano, an infantry officer.

After searching the fields and nearby houses the Soldiers turned their attention to the catacombs. The Soldiers wound there way through the entirety of the catacombs searching for anything from weapons caches to ammunition while maintaining proper dignity and respect for the historical site.

"We definitely don't want to offend the locals in the area, so we make sure to show the utmost respect while carry out our mission," Roper said.

Puerto Rican NG unit fights as family

By Pfc. William Hatton
7th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - When going into war, do you imagine you're entire family coming along with you? Not just your mom and dad, sisters and brothers, but your entire family extending back genera-

tions. When the Soldiers from the 130th Engineer Battalion from Puerto Rico deployed to Iraq, it was almost just that.

These troops have such a great bond it's almost like a very large family rolling out to fight the battle, said Sgt. Travis Finlay, a combat engineer attached to Company B, 130th

Eng. Bn. Not only are they close like a family, but a lot of them are brothers, sisters, cousins and even godparents, he added.

One of the reasons Soldiers of the 130th Eng. Bn. work so well together is because they have a lot of unity within the group, said Spc. Edwin Reynoso, gunner with Company A, 130th Eng. Bn. "We all have so much unity because a lot of us live close together. Our families spend time together."

"There's a lot of friendship here. I'm from Alpha Company, and the guys in Charley Company all know me," said Reynoso, a native of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. When Soldiers from 130th Eng. Bn see their patch on a fellow Soldier, they share a common bond with that person.

The Puerto Rican culture is

something that sets this unit apart from most units, said Spc. Jorge Munoz, a combat engineer with Company A, 130th Eng Bn.

These Soldiers are very hospitable to new individuals coming into the unit, said 1st Lt. Migael Uc, Company C, 130th Eng. Bn. "This unit has been very welcoming as I came into the unit."

"It's different for me because I came in from an active duty unit and I was detached to them, said Uc, a resident of Ventura, Calif. "You see that they're a close nit unit, they all know each other and are real close to each other."

Most units in the regular Army consist of all work and your personal life is outside of work, said Uc. These Soldiers seem to have more of a bond because they don't have that seperation, he added.



(Photo by Pfc. William Hatton, 7th MPAD)

A Soldier from Company C, 130th Engineer Battalion, from Puerto Rico scans a nearby neighborhood in Baghdad after an IED detonated on their convoy.

Mother, son reunion turns into double promotion

By Cpl. Jessica Kent
MNC-Iraq Public Affairs

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq - In anticipation of medical training, Pfc. Craig A. Wayman traveled via helicopter from Forward Operating Base Prosperity, Iraq, to Camp Victory, Iraq, Dec. 9.

When his boots hit the ground, he was shocked as his mother greeted him and transported him to the Al Faw Palace, where a unique ceremony took place.

The medic with Troop C, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, was surprised by a chance to promote his mother, Wendy A. Wayman, to the rank of chief warrant officer 4. She then promoted him to the rank of specialist.

"I haven't seen her for two years," said Craig. "When she came up behind me, I was so happy to see her. This is one of the best days I've had since I've been in Iraq."

During the promotion ceremony,

Craig tossed his mother's old rank insignia and stuck on the new, giving her a playful punch. A few seconds later, his mother, a signal intelligence officer with Multi-National Corps-Iraq, returned the gesture.

"When he promoted me, all I could think to myself was that he had no idea what was coming next," she said. "I have a cavalry background myself, so I'm used to it."

The day was a little overwhelming for Wendy. Her husband promoted her to the previous rank, and she wanted her son to carry the family tradition. However, she doubted the timing would be right for a mother-son promotion.

"I called and asked his first sergeant how things were going and if he thought this could be possible. I thought it would be done in January, but they had (a waiver) done in December," she said. "They were more than happy to do it and make arrangements for them to come here."



(Photo by Cpl. Jessica Kent, MNC-I Public Affairs)

Spc. Craig A. Wayman grimaces as his mother, CWO-4 Wendy A. Wayman, pins on his rank. Mother and son promoted each other at the Al Faw Palace, Dec. 9.